**Amendments to the Claims:** 

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

1. (currently amended) An operating mechanism (1)—for at least one brake, in

particular a parking brake, comprising: an actuator (30) connected to at least one

brake cable (60); and a load sensor (40) for determining the a mechanical load of the

at least one brake cable (60)-wherein the actuator is configured to both couple the

mechanical load of the at least one brake cable (60) to the load sensor and to decouple

the load sensor from tension imparted to the brake cable. is determined via the

actuator (30) in a manner decoupled from the at least one brake cable (60).

2. (currently amended) The operating mechanism (1)—according to claim 1,

characterized in that said actuator (30) is driven by an electric motor (5)-via a gear

<del>(10)</del>.

3. (currently amended) The operating mechanism (1)—according to claim 1,

characterized in that said actuator (30)-changes its position in a direction of its

longitudinal-axis-dependent on the mechanical load of the at least one brake cable

<del>(60)</del>.

- 4. (currently amended) The operating mechanism (1)—according to claim 1, characterized in that said actuator (30)—comprises a gear wheel—(31), a spindle (34) and a nut-(35).
- 5. (currently amended) The operating mechanism (1)—according to claim 4, characterized in that a first end (34a)—of said spindle (34)—being complementary shaped to a concentric, profiled opening (31a)—of said gear wheel (31)—and being guided therein so that a rotation of the gear wheel (31)—is transmitted to said spindle (34) and that at the same time a displacement of said first end (34a)—of said spindle (34) is possible in axial direction within said concentric, profiled opening (31a)—of said gear wheel-(31).
- 6. (currently amended) The operating mechanism (1)—according to claim 5, characterized in that said first end (34a) of said spindle (34) comprises a stopper (34e) so that said spindle (34) cannot be completely removed from said concentric, profiled opening (31a) of said gear wheel (31).
- 7. (currently amended) The operating mechanism (1)—according to claim 6, characterized in that said spindle (34)—comprises a second end (34b)—on which a rotation-decoupled stopper (34d)—is mounted.
- 8. (currently amended) The operating mechanism (1)—according to claim 7, characterized in that said rotation-decoupled stopper (34d)-comprises a magnet fixing (43a) with a magnet (43).

5

- 9. (currently amended) The operating mechanism (1)—according to claim 8, characterized in that a Hall-chip (41)-in a Hall-chip fixing (42)-is arranged opposite of and spaced apart from said magnet (43)-wherein a spring (45)-is positioned between said magnet fixing (43a)-and said Hall-chip fixing (41a).
- 10. (currently amended) The operating mechanism (1)—according to claim 4, characterized in that said nut (35)—is guided on a thread (34G)—of said spindle (34)—by a respective inside thread.
- 11. (currently amended) The operating mechanism (1)—according to claim 10, characterized in that two Bowden cables (70)—are coupled to said nut (35)—via coupling facilities being symmetrically arranged to said spindle (34)—wherein said Bowden cables (70)—are connected to said at least one brake cable (60).
- 12. (Withdrawn) The operating mechanism (1) according to claim 4, characterized in that said nut (35) is configured as a coupling mechanism (80) comprising a nut with an arc-shaped outer surface and a movable lever (84) mounted thereon.
- 13. (Withdrawn) The operating mechanism (1) according to claim 12, characterized in that said movable lever (84) comprises coupling facilities for at least two brake cables (60) so that at least two brakes can be directly operated via said actuator (30).
- 14. (Withdrawn) The operating mechanism (1) according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that microswitches are arranged along said spindle (34) or

6

Attorney Docket No. FICO-002/00US

Serial No. 10/617,538

Page 7

parallel to said spindle (34) on said housing (20) which are switched by said nut (35)

or by said coupling mechanism (80) and thereby generate a signal which indicates

that maintenance has to be carried out.

15. (Withdrawn) An operating mechanism (100) for at least one brake, particularly a

parking brake, comprising:

a. an actuator (130) having a spindle (134) which is connected to at least one brake

cable (160); and

b. a load sensor (140) for determining the mechanical loading of the at least one

brake cable (160), characterized in that

c. said spindle (134) is load controlled axially displaceable whereby the mechanical

loading is uniformly distributed between the at least one brake cable (160) and a

second brake cable (160) via the load-dependent spindle displacement.

16. (Withdrawn) Operating mechanism (100) according to claim 15, characterized

in that said actuator (130) comprises said axially displaceable spindle (134) having a

thread (134G) and a nut (135) guided thereon for mounting said at least one brake

7

cable (160).

Attorney Docket No. FICO-002/00US

Serial No. 10/617,538

Page 8

17. (Withdrawn) Operating mechanism (100) according to claim 16, characterized

in that said spindle (134) is driven by an electric motor (105) via a gear (110) having

a gear wheel (131).

18. (Withdrawn) Operating mechanism (100) according to claim 17, characterized

in that a guiding portion (136) of said spindle (134) is complementary shaped to a

concentric profiled opening (131a) of said gear wheel (131) and that it is guided in

such a way in said concentric profiled opening of the gear wheel (131) that a rotation

of the gear wheel (131) is transmitted to said spindle (134) and at the same time a

displacement of said guiding portion (134a) of said spindle (134) is possible in axial

direction of said spindle (134) within the concentric profiled opening (131a) of said

gear wheel (131).

19. (Withdrawn) Operating mechanism (100) according to claim 18, characterized

in that said guiding portion (136) of said spindle (134) comprises a rib and that said

gear wheel (131) comprises a recess complementary shaped to said rib in said

concentric opening (131a) or vice versa for forming a positive connection between

said spindle (134) and said gear wheel (131).

20. (Withdrawn) Operating mechanism (100) according to claim 19, characterized

in that said second brake cable (160) is mounted on said guiding portion (136) of said

spindle (134).

Attorney Docket No. FICO-002/00US Serial No. 10/617,538

Page 9

21. (Withdrawn) Operating mechanism (100) according to claim 16, characterized

in that said thread (134G) of said spindle (134) is limited by a stopper so that said nut

(135) cannot be screwed from said spindle (134).

22. (Withdrawn) Operating mechanism (100) according to claim 15, characterized

in that said load sensor (140) is connected to said spindle (134) for measuring the

mechanical loading of the brake cables (160).

23. (Withdrawn) Operating mechanism (100) according to claim 16, characterized

in that said operating mechanism (100) comprises a housing (120) having at least one

displacement portion (125) in which said nut (135) is guided and displaced and by

9

which the rotation of said nut (135) is prevented.